CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-53.

- After this Amendment: Claims 1-39 and 44-54

Canceled claims: 40-43

Amended claims: 1-23, 25, 29-39, and 44-53

New claims: 54

Claims:

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A processor-readable medium ~~comprising processor~~-encoded with executable instructions <u>that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer</u> ~~for performing~~ software ~~updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for~~, <u>the method comprising</u>:

assigning<u>, by the server computer,</u> a level of service to each of a plurality of <u>client computers</u> ~~users, by which the software updates will be performed~~;

scheduling<u>, by the server computer,</u> performance of ~~the~~ software updates to a <u>particular client computer</u> ~~user~~ from among the plurality of <u>client computers</u>

~~users~~ according to the level of service assigned to ~~that~~ the particular client computer ~~user~~; and

initiating, by the server computer, ~~performing~~ execution of the software updates to the particular client computer, according to the schedule.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~:

~~displaying a notification icon to a user; and~~

configuring by the server computer, a postponement ~~the notification~~ icon that, when displayed by the particular client computer and selected by a user, causes the execution of ~~to allow the user to postpone~~ the software updates to be postponed within a grace period, wherein the grace period is followed by an enforcement period within which selection of the ~~notification~~ postponement icon is prohibited so that execution of ~~does not allow the user to postpone~~ the software updates may not be further postponed.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 2, wherein assigning the level of service comprises ~~instructions for~~:

establishing the grace period and the enforcement period; and

wherein by shortening the grace period a higher level of service results due to more rapid application of the software updates.

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4. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1,

wherein the method further comprises~~additionally comprising instructions for~~:

~~displaying a notification icon to a user; and~~

configuring, by the server computer, an execution ~~the notification~~ icon

that, when displayed by the particular client computer and selected by a user,

causes the execution of the software updates to be initiated immediately~~to allow~~

~~the user to initiate performance of the software updates~~.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 4,

wherein configuring the ~~notification~~ execution icon comprises ~~instructions for~~:

enabling ~~providing~~ the client computer~~user with a first choice~~ to display a

reminder about installing the software updates; and

enabling ~~providing~~ the client computer ~~user with a second choice~~ to display

the execution icon ~~install the software updates~~.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 5,

wherein the ~~first choice of displaying the~~ reminder comprises ~~instructions for~~:

~~displaying~~ information on grace and enforcement periods associated with

the software updates;

wherein the grace period is a period during which the ~~user~~ execution of the software updates is allowed to be postponed ~~postpone performance of software updates~~;

wherein the grace period is configurable by ~~an~~ a server administrator; and

wherein the enforcement period is a period, configured by the server administrator to follow the grace period, during which execution of the software updates ~~the user~~ is not allowed to be postponed ~~postpone performance of software updates~~.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 5, wherein enabling the client computer to display the execution icon ~~the second choice of installing the software updates~~ comprises ~~instructions for~~:

enabling an ~~allowing the~~ update start time to be modified by a user of the client computer; and ~~user to schedule an update start time; and~~

enabling a ~~allowing the~~ client computer reboot time to be modified by a user of the client computer. ~~user to schedule a reboot time.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further ~~performing the software update~~ comprises ~~additional instructions for~~ deploying annoyance reminders to the client computer urging a user of the client computer ~~user~~ to reboot.

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9. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein ~~the method further~~ performing the software update comprises causing ~~additional instructions for~~ the client-computer to _automatically_ perform ~~performing~~ the software updates following a grace period.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the method further ~~performing the software update~~ comprises enabling ~~additional instructions for~~ the client computer to delay ~~delaying~~ the performance until after conclusion of a user-initiated postponement within a grace period.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the scheduling ~~performance of the software updates~~ comprises ~~additional instructions for~~ configuring a change time-window, wherein the change time-window defines a period of time within which client computers will not be restricted from performing the updates ~~will be performed~~.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein assigning the level of service comprises ~~additional instructions for~~ configuring a duration of the change time-window, wherein a longer duration

implies a higher level of service and a shorter duration implies a lower level of service.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein <u>the</u> scheduling <u>further comprises</u>~~performance of the software~~ ~~updates comprises additional instructions for~~:

defining failsafe timeout periods for each of the software updates; and

adjusting the failsafe timeout periods according to individual <u>client</u> <u>computer</u> ~~computer~~ performance, wherein longer failsafe timeout periods are assigned where the individual <u>client computer</u> ~~computer~~ performance is slower.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, <u>wherein the method further comprises:</u>~~comprising additional instructions for:~~

applying updates during the change <u>time-</u>window; and

monitoring a failsafe timeout for each update applied.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, <u>wherein the method further comprises</u> ~~comprising additional instructions for~~ identifying updates for which there was insufficient time within the change <u>time-</u>window for installation within a second change <u>time-</u>window.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, <u>wherein the method further comprises,</u> ~~comprising additional instructions for,~~ when time remaining within the change <u>time-</u>window is less than a failsafe timeout for any remaining software updates, suspending application of the remaining software updates.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 11, <u>wherein the method further comprises</u> ~~comprising additional instructions for~~ associating <u>client computers</u> ~~servers~~ into groups, wherein each group is assigned a change <u>time-</u>window.~~, and wherein the groups are sized to allow simultaneous updating of the client computers servers in each of the groups without disrupting work flow.~~

18. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, <u>wherein the method further comprises</u> ~~comprising additional instructions for~~:

grouping a plurality of the software updates into a package; and

configuring the package for differential enforcement whereby different <u>client computers</u> ~~computers would~~ receive different software updates from the package.

19. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising additional instructions for~~ programmatically obtaining the plurality of software updates from a trusted source of update content.

20. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises ~~comprising additional instructions for~~ configuring the package for SMS consumption.

21. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein assigning the level of service comprises ~~additional instructions for~~ providing different rules of enforcement within the package to result in different application of software updates within the package to different client computers.

22. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein assigning the level of service comprises ~~additional instructions for~~ partitioning the package of software updates to separate trusted updates from un-trusted updates.

23. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 22, wherein assigning the level of service further comprises ~~comprising additional~~

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~~instructions for~~ merging the un-trusted software updates with the trusted software updates based on performance of the un-trusted updates in a test environment.

24. **(Original)** The processor-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the partitioning is expressed in XML configured to inform different clients of updates suitable for their consumption.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein assigning the level of service comprises: ~~additional instructions for~~ incorporating an authorization list of approved updates into a template based on a standard image.

26. **(Original)** The processor-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the template is written into an XML document.

27. **(Original)** The processor-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the XML document is consumed and deployed as a mirror of a desired state for software updates.

28.   (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the XML document is consumed and deployed by SMS.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for performing software updates on a client computer, the method comprising:

receiving, from a server computer, a software update to be executed on the client computer;

~~assigning a service level to each user by which software updates will be performed;~~

displaying an icon configured to allow a client computer user ~~user~~ a choice between displaying software update reminders and immediate initiation of installation of the software ~~updates~~update by the client computer;

wherein the software reminders include information on grace periods within which installation of the software update may be postponed and information on the onset of enforcement periods after which installation of the software update may not be postponed; and

providing a user interface to allow selection of a time for the client computer to perform the installation of the software update and to allow selection of a time for the client computer to initiate a ~~to~~ reboot, wherein the time selected is based in part on ~~the~~ a level of service assigned ~~level of service~~ to the client computer by the server computer.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a client computer to execute a method for ~~for assisting a user to update~~updating software on the client computer, the ~~processor-executable instructions~~ method comprising ~~instructions for~~:

displaying an icon that represents ~~configured to allow a user~~ a choice between displaying software update reminders and initiating immediate ~~initiation~~ ~~of~~installation of ~~the~~software updates;

wherein the software update reminders include information on grace periods within which installation of the software updates by the client computer may be postponed and information on the onset of enforcement periods after which installation of the software updates by the client computer may not be postponed; and

providing a user interface to allow selection of a time for the client computer to perform the installation of the software updates and to allow selection of a time for the client computer to initiate a ~~to~~reboot.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises; ~~additionally comprising: instructions for~~

providing a <u>client computer user</u> ~~user~~ interface at repeated intervals ~~to~~

~~persuade a client computer user~~ user to <u>facilitate the</u> reboot <u>of the client</u>

<u>computer</u>, where the software updates have been installed and no reboot has

been performed.

32.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim

30, <u>wherein the method further comprises;</u> ~~additionallycomprising instructions~~

~~for~~

setting the grace periods and the enforcement periods to control a level of

service provided <u>to the client computer.</u> ~~by the system.~~

33.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim

30, <u>wherein the method further comprises;</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions~~

~~for~~

periodically <u>displaying</u> ~~showing~~ the ~~user~~ information about software

updates that have not yet been performed.

34.   (Currently Amended) A method <u>executed by a server computer</u>

for performing software updates <u>on client computers</u>, <u>the method</u> comprising:

associating <u>client computers</u> ~~servers~~ into <u>groups;</u> ~~groups sized to allow~~

~~simultaneous updating of servers in each group without disrupting work flow;~~

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establishing a change time-window for each of the groups; and

intiating, by the server computer, software updatesapplying updates to

the client computers within the change time-window established for each group

of client computers;, while

monitoring by the server computer a failsafe timeout for each update.

35. **(Currently Amended)** A processor-readable medium comprising

processor encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a

server computer to perform a method for updating client computer for

performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising

instructions for, the method comprising:

associating client computers servers into groups sized to allow

simultaneous updating of servers in each group without disrupting work flow;

establishing a change time-window for each of the groups; and

intiating, by the server computer, software updatesapplying updates to

the client computers within the change time-window established for each group

of client computers;, while

monitoring by the server computer a failsafe timeout for each update.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim

35, the method further comprising: additionally comprising instructions for

installing ~~application of~~ each software update~~;~~ and ~~for~~

setting the failsafe timeout with reference to the anticipated <u>duration of</u> ~~times for~~ <u>installation</u> ~~application~~.

37.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~

determining <u>,by the server computer,</u> if the failsafe timeout for each software update is greater than time remaining within the change <u>time-</u>window, and if so, ~~for~~ suspending installation of the software update.

38.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions~~ for

identifying, <u>by the server computer, software updates</u> for ~~potential~~ installation in a second change <u>time-</u>window, ~~software updates~~ which were not installed in the change <u>time-</u>window.

39.   (Currently Amended) A method <u>executed by a server computer</u> for performing software updates, <u>the method</u> comprising:

grouping a <u>plurality</u> ~~large number~~ of software updates into a package;

configuring the package for differential enforcement, wherein different client computers are <u>assigned by the server</u> ~~given~~ different periods of time within which ~~to perform~~ a software update <u>will be initiated</u>; and

configuring the package for SMS consumption.

40. **(Canceled)** ~~A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:~~

~~grouping a large number of software updates into a package;~~

~~configuring the package for differential enforcement, wherein different client computers are given different periods of time within which to perform a software update; and~~

~~configuring the package for SMS consumption.~~

41. **(Canceled)** ~~The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally comprising instructions for configuring the package with content from a trusted website.~~

42. **(Canceled)** ~~The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally comprising instructions for distributing the package by utilizing SMS to a plurality of client computers.~~

43.   (Canceled)

~~The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally comprising instructions for performing software updates differentially on a plurality of computers using the package.~~

44.   (Currently Amended) A method <u>executed by a server system</u> for performing <u>client computer</u> software updates, <u>the method</u> comprising:

forming a package with a plurality of software updates;

partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;

distributing the package to a plurality of <u>client computers, such that</u> ~~clients; and~~

~~installing~~ appropriate software updates <u>are installed</u> on each of the plurality of clients, wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on <u>client comptuers</u> ~~clients~~ <u>configured by the server to install un-trusted software updates</u>~~within a test environment.~~

45.   (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium ~~comprising processor~~<u>encoded with</u> executable instructions <u>that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer</u> ~~for~~

~~performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for~~, the method comprising:

forming a package with a plurality of software updates;

partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;

distributing the package to a plurality of <u>client computers such that</u>~~clients;~~ ~~and~~

~~installing~~ appropriate software updates <u>are installed</u> on each of the plurality of <u>client comptuers</u> ~~clients~~, wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on clients <u>configured to install un-trusted software updates</u>~~within~~ ~~within a test environment.~~

46.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~

merging un-trusted software updates together with the trusted software updates in response to performance of the un-trusted software updates <u>on clients having un-trusted software updates installed.</u>~~in the test environment.~~

47.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~

expressing the <u>partitioning of the package</u> ~~partition~~ with XML.

48. **(Currently Amended)** The processor-readable medium of claim 45, the method further comprising: ~~additionally comprising instructions,~~

embedding within the package, instructions that when executed by the client computer, facilitate the ~~for~~ expressing to client computers ~~clients~~ which software updates are suitable for their consumption.

49. **(Currently Amended)** A method implemented by a server computer for performing software updates, the method comprising:

using a reference client computer to generate a template ~~having an authorization list~~ of approved updates;

deploying the template to a plurality of client computers ~~client computers~~; and

intitiating ~~performing~~ software updates ~~on~~ to the plurality of client computers according to the template.

50. **(Currently Amended)** A processor-readable medium ~~comprising processor~~ encoded with executable instructions that, when executed, direct a server computer to perform a method for updating client computer ~~for performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for~~, the method comprising:

using a reference <u>client</u> computer to generate a template ~~having an authorization list~~ of approved updates;

deploying the template to <u>a plurality of client computers</u> ~~client computers~~;
and

<u>intitiating</u> ~~performing~~ software updates ~~on~~ <u>to</u> the <u>plurality of</u> client computers according to the template.

51.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim
50, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~
incorporating the template into an XML file.

52.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim
50, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~wherein~~

deploying the template ~~comprises~~ with instructions for configuring the
template for SMS consumption and deployment.

53.   (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim
50, <u>the method further comprising:</u> ~~additionally comprising instructions for~~

using the template to identify a subset of software update files from a
~~large file including~~ a plurality of software update files.

54. **(New)** A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

configuring the package with content from a trusted website;

grouping a plurality of software updates into a package;

configuring the package for SMS consumption;

partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;

distributing the package by utilizing SMS to a plurality of client-computers;

associating client-computers into groups;

establishing a change time-window for each of the groups;

expressing to client-computers which software updates are suitable for consumption;

installing updates on each of the plurality of clients within the change time-window established for the group the client is a member of;

installing the un-trusted software updates are installed only on client-computers configured to install un-trusted software updates;

setting a failsafe timeout with reference to the anticipated duration of installation;

monitoring a failsafe timeout for each update;

determining if the failsafe timeout for each software update is greater than time remaining within the change time-window, and if so, for suspending installation of the software update.